

Message

---

**From:** Ethan Vorhes [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]  
**Sent:** 5/25/2021 9:06:25 PM  
**To:** Jessica Mazour [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]; Erin Jordan [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]; Claire Hruby [claire.hruby@dnr.iowa.gov]; Brink, Theresa [Brink.Theresa@epa.gov]; Lee Rood [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]; Alicia Plathe [alicia.plathe@dnr.iowa.gov]  
**Subject:** Fw: Meeting Follow-Up  
**Attachments:** water and nf 031.JPG; water and nf 102.JPG; water and nf 103.JPG; water and nf 107.JPG; water and nf 108.JPG; Drainage well 003.JPG; Drainage well 011.JPG; Drainage well 006.JPG; drain 005.JPG; 039.JPG

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Ethan Vorhes [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]  
**To:** jeremy.klatt@dnr.iowa.gov <jeremy.klatt@dnr.iowa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021, 04:02:41 PM CDT  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting Follow-Up

Jeremy

I did want to do a quick follow up. I believe the house in question is Barbara's, but question whether either house or both use the tile system to dump waste. As for the map it is on a public web page you may be familiar with. Iowa Geographic Map Server at Iowa State University. If you zoom out over the Intersection of 260th and Jersey you will see the tile system in the field behind the Staudt homestead on the 1930's layer. You will also see where it is drawn to the corner of the ditch and has an x over the former drainage well. I think it's important to remember that it was a county supervisor who lived in the house in question who was having the outlet reclassified in the 90's. When you zoom over the lateral tile south of the homestead and click the 1950's layer map you will see Leo and Barbara's home pop up. The tile is literal right behind the house. Another interesting point that these aerial maps indicates is that our family farms historically where productive. You can also see in the years leading up to now the soggiess of the Drainage district and the normal farmland owned by the Vorhes families downstream of the district. By the late 2000's as I have indicated several times the Staudt family added many miles off tiles as can clearly be seen on the 2007 - 2010 spring orthophotos on Jeff Staudts farm in the Northwest part of the district. Another fact provable by these set of historical maps is the claim that land outside of the district drains through the tile system. You can see on the same 07-10 where the tiles lead to the surface intakes in the road ditch where you can clearly see water from outside of the district running into its tile system as well as in the 1930s map where Gerhardt's also have land that's not incorporated emptying into the over taxed system. I know it's not the Dnrs department to regulate the district, but it's the clear and ongoing disregard for responsibility operating the drainage district. I am reading the definition of an ag drainage well right now and it says "vertical opening or permeable substrate which is constructed by drilling, driving, digging, boring, angoring, jetting, washing, or coring, and which is capable of intercepting or receiving surface or subsurface drainage water from land directly or by a drainage system". I know you wanted a big drilled shaft, but even the ponder areas without the man made cisterns is a drainage well. I have search for the definition of an Improved sinkhole in Iowa code and permeable substratum and don't find a definition of either. Although the translation based on sepearte meanings is porous rock layer. Both outlets we viewed were both dug and backfield with soil further fitting the definition of an agricultural drainage well. In the first photo the drainage system is having a cistern placed over a vertical opening to the aquifer. Subsequently this drainage well was enlarged from the original outlet to take more water. you can see in ther photos while modifying the outlet large boulders where dug out of the ground. You can also see the condition of the bedrock was eceptional solid as masonary drills were required to set stake before pouring the footing. Im also including a photo of reinforced concrete used tofix the broken ag drainage well system. As I stated during you sight visit this was unable to contain the overtaxed drainage system without the cistern being maintained. The sides of the dug hole indicated that the old structure had been dug and or dynamited and backfilled mixing black top soil with limestone. As I stated in court as well as during our conversation during the site visit it was easy to see water didn't flow through the outlet of the cistern based on the fact that water wasn't flowing which was exceptionally apparent through the lack of movement of debris. I was able to capture evidence that a year after pouring the drainage well a blout under the footing allowed the water to escape. I captured picture 039 which show clean bedrock where the flow of water keeps dirt off the stone. It clear indicates where the flow of water travels. this was the only hole that allowed water to travel through the box. In photos that will be attached to subsequent emails you can see the water comes out and travels around the box above the hole. I have many videos that depict this all much clear, which I will send upon request, but for illustration purposes am only sending photos today. I am including a few photos that shows the discharge of the surface inlet that Jeremy Klatt sampled. In those photos you can see the buildup of toliet paper and sewer waste trying to escape the intake. I am also going to include a few documents that pertain to this outlet. Look for part two of this email.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

On Tue, May 25, 2021 at 12:20 PM, Klatt, Jeremy  
<jeremy.klatt@dnr.iowa.gov> wrote:

Ethan -

Just wanted to touch base with you on a couple of things. I have reached out to Jeff Sherman regarding the septic issue, he indicated that he is planning to re-engage the homeowner about the potential illegal septic. DNR will plan to stay involved to see that the situation gets resolved. I just wanted to confirm the address of the house in question as I see there are two houses right there. Is the house you are referring to owned by Barbara Staudt (2571 Jersey Ave.) or Daniel and Allion Staudt (2565 Jersey Ave.)? Also, you had mentioned that there is an old tile map that shows a tile line running up to the house, do you have a copy of that map that you would be able to send my way?

Secondly, you had mentioned the possibility of a cancer cluster in the area. I confirmed that the Iowa Department of Public Health would be the agency to contact regarding this issue. Their telephone number is (515) 281-7689, I recommend that you contact them and explain the situation to them.

Lastly, you had indicated that you would try to find and email pictures of the opening that you took while the concrete structure was being rebuilt. Have you been able to find any of these? Those I think would be very informative for both DNR and EPA, I don't see a picture of the hole in our files.

I presume that EPA will keep you informed when they release their findings, but I will be sure to reach out to you when I hear something.

Thanks,  
Jeremy



**Jeremy Klatt • Environmental Specialist Senior**  
Field Office 2/Field Services & Compliance Bureau  
*Iowa Department of Natural Resources*  
**641-424-4073**  
2300 15th St. SW, Mason City, IA 50401

